



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

November 16, 2010

Mr. L. Blaine Charak, Chair
Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board
2424 Reedie Drive
Wheaton, Maryland 20902

Dear Mr. Charak,

Thank you for your letter to Council President Floreen, dated November 2, 2010. We appreciate your support for the renovation of Kemp Mill Urban Park and would like to address your questions and concerns about delays to the project schedule. The intent for this project is to complete the facility planning phase of work and obtain approval by the Montgomery County Planning Board before Fall 2011, in order to request funding for final design and construction in the Department of Parks Capital Improvements Program for Fiscal Years 2013-2018.


The facility planning process has experienced delays for several reasons. In late 2009 and early 2010, after two public meetings were held on the project and before a recommended plan was developed, the Department of Parks spent several months evaluating the potential for this project to participate in the national pilot program for the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES.) This program establishes national guidelines and performance benchmarks for sustainable land design, construction and maintenance practices, and the guidelines and benchmarks will eventually be incorporated into future iterations of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. The Department submitted this project as a candidate because of the complexity of the project and the opportunities to incorporate sustainable practices related to the use of materials, landscape and water. The project was accepted into the pilot program, but the Department subsequently elected to participate with another park project that was in a later stage of design and could provide more immediate results as a pilot project. However, the sustainability evaluation that we conducted for Kemp Mill Urban Park was valuable to help inform our design approach and improve the proposed plan for the park.

As you noted in attachments to your letter, we have also been working to investigate and address short-term maintenance issues associated with the existing pond and storm drainage system. We have been working cooperatively with the owner of the Kemp Mill Shopping Center and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to clean storm water pipes and inlets on public and private property that had accumulated trash and debris, causing the pond to overflow into the shopping center and damage an existing retaining wall. The pipes and inlets were cleared, the pond was cleaned, and the retaining wall was repaired. These maintenance issues have

highlighted flaws in the existing infrastructure that we intend to address with the long term plan for the park.

Our current schedule is to hold a third public meeting in January 2011 to present a proposed plan that incorporates public input from the previous meetings. Following the third public meeting, we will refine the plan, obtain preliminary regulatory approvals in Spring 2011 and present the project to the Planning Board for approval next summer. We have updated our website with the current schedule at <http://www.parkprojects.org> and will notify you as soon as a date is established for the next public meeting. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our project manager, CJ Lilly, at clark.lilly@montgomeryparks.org, 301-495-3589, or me at patricia.mcmanus@montgomeryparks.org, 301-495-3580. Thank you again for your interest in this project and support for the park renovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia A. McManus". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Patricia" being more prominent than the last name "McManus".

Patricia A. McManus
Design Section Supervisor
Park Development Division

Copy: Françoise Carrier, Chair
Mary Bradford, Director of Parks
CJ Lilly, Project Manager